

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TITLE: DEVICE FOR PACKAGING CONTINUOUS WEBS OF MATERIALS SUCH AS SELVEDGES GENERATED ON THERMOFORMING UNITS

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Device for packaging continuous webs (B) of material such as the selvedges generated on thermoforming units, ~~of the type~~ comprising:

means for controlling the input of said webs (B),

means (1) for guiding and driving said webs (B), ~~as well as,~~

cutting means (2), and;

downstream of the ~~latter~~, cutting means (3), a means for collecting the pieces of webs, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said cutting means (2) ~~consist~~ is comprised of at least one blade (25) actuated according to a reciprocating movement co-operating with a cutting block (24), and ~~in that~~ wherein said guiding and driving means (1) are associated to means (21) for conveying said webs (B) by ~~means of~~ an air flow arranged immediately before said blade (25) and said cutting block (24).

2. (Currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said guiding and driving means (1) comprise two rollers (10) ~~which roll~~ rolled in an opposite direction of rotation to each other, driven stepwise, so as to be capable of gripping the web (B) and to drive it at a determined speed towards the conveying means (21).

3. (Currently amended) Device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rollers (10) are driven by a pneumatic jack (12) in association with a free wheel (14) and a train of gears (15).

4. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the Claim 1, wherein said means for conveying by an air flow ~~consist~~ are comprised of a part (21) having a generally tubular shape including an inlet end (22) through which the web (B) proceeding from the guiding and driving means (1) is inserted, and an outlet end (23) through which said web (B) leaves and at least part of the edge of which constitutes the cutting block (24), while internal means are capable of allowing, in association with a pressurized air source, to create an air flow in the input/output direction.

5. (Currently amended) Device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said part (21) having a generally tubular shape is conical and is narrowing from the inlet (22) to the outlet (23).

6. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the Claim 1, wherein said blade (25) is driven through a pneumatic jack (28) which also ~~constitutes~~ forms the pressurized air source which generates the air flow.

7. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that it~~ includes Claim 3, further comprising: an automatic device ~~capable of~~ synchronizing the action of the driving jack (12) with that of the cutting jack (25).

8. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ it is associated to Claim 1, further comprising means for changing the direction (4) ~~including~~

comprising a set of pulleys (41) ~~allowing~~ to convey the webs (B) proceeding from the thermoforming unit, irrespective of the location of said device with respect to the latter.

9. (Currently amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the Claim 1, wherein said means (3) for collecting the pieces of web (B) ~~include~~ comprised of a bag (32) removably mounted on a drawer (31), ~~which is,~~ associated to a mechanism capable of causing, when opening said drawer (31), the unfolding of a shutter (33) under the cutting means (2), in order to collect said pieces during the period necessary for substituting said bag, and of preventing access to the blade (25).